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Aman wins bronze, India's 6th Oly medal

Aman Sehrawat beat Darian Cruz to win bronze in the men's 57kg division on Friday. India have now won six medals. However, with just two days left for the Games to finish, they may not have much time left to match the Tokyo haul of 7. This wrestling medal also means it's the only sport where Indians have won medals at all Games since Beijing in 2008 | P19

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PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF INDIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

Bill proposes up to 4 nominees per bank a/c

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

MINISTER of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Friday introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha, proposing up to four nominees for each bank account.

The bill has enabling provisions to transfer unclaimed dividends, shares, and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund, allowing individuals to claim transfers or refunds from the fund, thus safeguarding investors' interests.

The bill proposes to extend the tenure of directors in cooperative banks from 8-10 years. It also proposes to allow a director of a Central cooperative bank to serve on a State cooperative bank board. Congress MP Manish Tewari said the power to legislate cooperatives vests with state governments.

Govt ducks the SC/ST creamy layer bullet

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN a significant move, the Centre on Friday said it will not implement the Supreme Court's proposal of carving out the creamy layer within the reservations for Scheduled Castes (STs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Announcing the decision, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that there is no concept of creamy layer in SC/ST reservation under Baba Saheb Ambedakar's principles. "The Cabinet has taken a well-thought decision that the provisions for SC/ST reservations will be in tune with Ambedkar's principles," he said.

"In the Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Modi today, we discussed the issue of the SC ruling on sub-categorisation and creamy layer in detail. The Cabinet's well-thought decision is that the NDA government is committed to the constitutional principles laid down by Dr Ambedkar. There is no concept of creamy layer in SC and ST reservation under Ambedkar's principles," he said.

> The Cabinet's well-thought decision is that the NDA government is committed to the constitutional principles laid down by Dr Ambedkar
>
> – Ashwini Vaishnaw

The decision is on expected lines as the Modi government is facing pressure on the creamy layer issue from allies and from within the party. NDA ally LJP's chief Chirag Paswan has already announced that he will file a review petition against the Supreme Court ruling.

The thinking within the government is that the implementation of the creamy layer will further alienate the backward community from the BJP. In the 2024 general elections, the BJP suffered major losses especially in Uttar Pradesh after the backward community and Dalits voted against it.

Sisodia finally gets bail

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

SEVENTEEN months after he was arrested for alleged money laundering linked to the Delhi excise policy scam, former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Friday walked out of Tihar jail after the Supreme Court granted him bail. "It appears that the trial courts and the high courts attempt to play safe in matters of grant of bail. The principle that bail is a rule and refusal is an exception is, at times, followed in breach," a two-judge bench led by Justice B R Gavai said.

While rejecting the trial court's position that Sisodia was responsible for delaying the process, the bench said, bail can't be rejected as a punishment. As for the trial court's claim that he kept various documents, the bench said it was not supported by record. Just 13 and 14 applications were filed by him in the CBI and ED matters respectively, it said.

EXPRESS READ

SC refuses to postpone NEET-PG examination

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to postpone the NEET-PG examination scheduled for August 11. "As a matter of principle, we will not reschedule the exam. There are two lakh students and four lakh parents who will weep over the weekend if we postpone it," a bench comprising CJI D Y Chandrachud said | P9

PM to visit landslide-hit regions in Wayanad today

Kozhikode: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Wayanad on Saturday to assess the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts following the landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai. Later, the PM will chair a review meeting with officials, where he will be briefed about the incident and the ongoing relief efforts | P5

Plane with 62 onboard crashes in Brazil

Sao Paulo: An ATR-72 plane carrying 58 passengers and 4 crew members crashed in a residential area of a city in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Friday. Brazil president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, said it appeared that all 62 onboard had died. Brazilian television network GloboNews showed a plane drifting downward vertically, spiraling as it fell | P12

AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar at Janandolana rally in Mysuru on Friday | UDAYASHANKAR S

CM: I am clean, won't fall for Oppn tactics

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday claimed that he is "spotlessly clean" and accused opposition parties of targeting him just because he is a mass leader from a backward community.

Participating in Congress' Janandolana rally here, he said that he will remain honest in public life forever and asked people to stand by him in his hour of crisis. BJP and JDS tried and failed to fix him in the ST corporation scam and now they are trying to corner him and his family in the MUDA scam, he alleged.

Referring to the Quit India Movement against the British, Siddaramaiah said it's time to launch a similar movement against the communal, casteist and authoritarian forces which hate leaders from backward communities holding top posts. They targeted the then chief ministers D Devaraj Urs, S Bangarappa, M Veera Moily and N Dharam Singh, the CM added. CONTINUED ON: P4

Ashoka: Why are you scared of CBI probe?

Mysuru: Reacting to CM Siddaramaiah's claim of maintaining a clean record throughout his public life, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said, "If you're truly clean and have not indulged in any corruption, why are you scared of a CBI probe?"

SC stays hijab ban imposed by Mumbai college

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday partly stayed a circular issued by a Mumbai college that prohibited female students from wearing 'hijab, burqa, cap, and naqab' on the campus, saying girl students have the freedom to choose what to wear. Terming the restrictions imposed by the college authorities as unwarranted, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar asked the Chembur Trombay Education Society, which runs the N G Acharya and D K Marathe College, whether it would ban 'bindi' and 'tilak' also on the campus.

Justice Kumar asked senior advocate Madhavi Divan, appearing for the society, how was the college empowering the girl students by issuing such a circular. "Girl students must have the freedom of choice in what they wear, and the college can't impose bans," the bench said.

The SC, however, clarified that burqas would not be permitted inside the classrooms and that no religious activities should occur on campus. The SC also warned that its interim order should not be misused, adding that the educational society has the right to appeal in case of any perceived misuse.

During the hearing, the bench was told the college's decision was aimed at preventing students from revealing their religion. To this, the court said: "The person's religious identity can be revealed by his/her name and not by the clothes he/she wears."

Divan said the circular was not limited to 'hijab, burqa or naqab' but extended to ripped jeans and other such attire.

Now stricter guidelines for women's PGs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN view of a woman's murder at a paying guest (PG) facility in Koramangala last month and the demand for inmates' safety, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued fresh guidelines for such facilities in its limits.

If owners of PGs violate the guidelines, their licences will be cancelled. As per the guidelines, the owners should preserve the CCTV footage for 90 days. Each inmate should be provided with 70 sqft of space. P2

FUND CRUNCH HITS STATE GOVT RECRUITMENT DRIVE

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

FINANCIAL constraints seem to be slowing down the state government's move to fill a large number of vacant posts in various departments.

In the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections in the state, the Congress party promised to fill all vacant posts without any delay if it comes to power.

To implement the Seventh Pay Commission's recommendations, the government needs Rs 20,000 crore annually. It had promised to implement the commission's recommendations from this month. This is likely to make matters worse for the government, which has to fund its ambitious guarantee schemes and also many development projects.

Senior officers in the government admitted that the recruitment drive will be affected. However, proposals submitted by various departments have been approved depending on their requirement, they said.

Of the 7.7 lakh sanctioned posts, 72 departments have 5.2 lakh employees. In all, 2.50 lakh posts are vacant in various departments, including Agriculture, Home, Urban Development, Health, Tourism, Education, Food and Civil Supplies, Power, Water Resources, Excise, Medical Education, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. Employees have been recruited to some vacant posts on a contract basis. P4

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